

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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SAM-01 /059 W

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R 021555Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4835

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MILI, BR

SUBJECT: MILITARY MARKS 12TH ANNIVERSARY OF REVOLUTION WITH  
SELF-CONGRATULATIONS

SUMMARY: THERE WERE NO SURPRISES IN OFFICIAL STATEMENTS BY THE  
PRESIDENT AND THE ARMY MINISTER MARKING THE TWELFTH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE 1964 REVOLUTION. THE STATEMENTS FAILED TO  
ACKNOWLEDGE CIVILIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE REVOLUTION, WHICH  
IS LIKELY TO BE TAKEN AS AN INDICATION OF THE OFFICIAL  
ATTITUDE TOWARD CURRENT CIVILIAN POLITICAL LEADERS. WHILE  
THE PRESIDENT SPOKE VAGUELY OF A GRADUAL EVOLUTION TOWARD  
PERFECTING INSTITUTIONS, THE ARMY MINISTER LEFT NO DOUBT  
THAT, IN HIS MIND AT LEAST, THE 1964 REVOLUTION, UNDER  
MILITARY TUTELAGE, WILL BE WITH US FOR YEARS TO COME.  
END SUMMARY.

1. IN A LUNCHEON AT THE VILA MILITAR IN RIO DE JANEIRO ON  
MARCH 31 TO COMMEMORATE THE TWELFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1964  
REVOLUTION, PRESIDENT ERNESTO GEISEL AND ARMY MINISTER  
GENERAL SYLVIO FROTA MADE ROUTINE SPEECHES OF THE TYPE  
USUALLY ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH OCCASIONS.

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2. PRESIDENT GEISEL EXPRESSED AN "OLD SOLDIER'S PLEASURE AT BEING AMONG COMRADES IN THE VILA MILITAR WHERE HE HAD PREVIOUSLY SERVED. "THERE IS NO MORE APPROPRIATE 'AMBIENCE' IN WHICH TO COMMEMORATE THE REVOLUTION OF 1964 THAN IN THE AREA OF AN ARMY HEADQUARTERS," THE PRESIDENT SAID, AND WENT ON TO PRAISE THE ROLE OF THE ARMED FORCES IN THE REVOLUTION. THE PRESIDENT SAID IT WAS THE ARMED FORCES, "COHESIVE, CULTIVATING THE IDEAS OF OUR REVOLUTION, FULFILLING ALL THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES", THAT PERMITTED THE GOVERNMENT TO WORK TOWARDS "AN EVOLUTION, NO DOUBT GRADUAL, DIRECTED TO PERFECTING OUR POLITICAL AND SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS, WITH A BASIS IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN WHICH WE ARE CONTINUING DESPITE THE SERIOUS INTERNATIONAL CRISIS."

3. GEISEL'S SPEECH, WHICH THE PRESS REPORTED WAS MADE WITHOUT NOTES, WAS IN REPLY TO A TOAST TO THE PRESIDENT PROPOSED BY GENERAL FROTA, WHO WELCOMED THE PRESIDENT AND PROMISED HIM THE ARMY'S CONTINUED FULL SUPPORT. FROTA'S COMMENTS ON THE TWELFTH ANNIVERSARY WERE CONTAINED IN AN ORDER OF THE DAY FOR 31 MARCH.

4. IN HIS ORDER FROTA DESCRIBED THE CORRUPTION AND SUBVERSION IN THE GOULART PRESIDENCY AND SAID THE 1964 REVOLUTION WAS LAUNCHED BY THE ARMED FORCES WITH THE APPLAUSE OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION. THE ORDER EMPHASIZED THE 1964 REVOLUTION HAD NO FIXED TIME PERIOD AND WOULD END ONLY WHEN IT HAD ACHIEVED ITS OBJECTIVES, WHICH WERE INDICATED AS BEING STILL A GOOD WAYS OFF. COMMUNIST SUBVERSION IN PARTICULAR, WHILE CURRENTLY UNDER CONTROL, THANKS TO THE ARMED FORCES, WAS SEEN AS A LONG-TERM THREAT, AND THE ORDER SAID THE STRUGGLE WOULD CONTINUE.

5. IN SENATE SPEECHES THE SAME DAY CIVILIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE 1964 REVOLUTION WAS EMPHASIZED BY SENATORS OF BOTH THE MDB (PAULO BROSSARD) AND ARENA (DANIEL KRIEGER, JARBAS PASSARINHO AND DINARTE MARIZ). THE UPPER HOUSE WARMLY APPLAUDED SEVERAL REFERENCES TO SENATE PRESIDENT MAGALHAES PINTO AS THE CIVILIAN LEADER OF THE REVOLUTION. IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, WHERE TWO OPPOSITION MEMBERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAD JUST BEEN UNSEATED BY EXECUTIVE DECREE, ANTI-GOVERNMENT FEELING RAN STRONGER AND THERE WAS AN INFORMAL MDB BOYCOTT OF AN ARENA SPEECH COMMEMORATING THE REVOLUTION.

6. COMMENT: WHILE OFFICIAL ANNIVERSARY SPEECHES AND ORDERS OF THE DAY NORMALLY FOCUS ON THE PREDOMINANT MILITARY CONTRIBUTION TO THE 1964 REVOLUTION, CIVILIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE MOVEMENT WAS NOT EVEN MENTIONED BY GEISEL AND ONLY TOUCHED

ON BY FROTA WHO CAST IT IN A PASSIVE ROLE. THIS SLIGHTS A  
GENUINE CONTRIBUTION MADE TO THE REVOLUTION. IT IS NOT LIKELY TO  
PASS UNNOTICED BY CIVILIAN POLITICAL LEADERS WHO CLAIM SOME  
CREDIT FOR THE REVOLUTION'S SUCCESS AND WHO CONTINUE TO PROMOTE  
THE IDEA OF GREATER CIVILIAN CONTROL IN THE FUTURE OVER THE  
REVOLUTIONARY REGIME. END COMMENT.  
CRIMMINS

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